

§180.1. Spot Prawn (*Pandalus platyceros*) Fishing.

Spot prawns may only be taken by trawl nets for commercial purposes pursuant to subsection 120.3(g) of these regulations, or by traps, pursuant to sections 180, 180.2, 180.5 and this section.

(a) No trap may be used to take spot prawns from November 1 through January 31, between a line drawn due west from Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County and the United States -- Mexico boundary. No trap may be used to take spot prawns from May 1 through July 31 between a line drawn due west from Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County, and the California-Oregon boundary.

(1) Spot prawn traps may be set and baited no earlier than 0600 hours (6:00 a.m.) on January 31 in waters south of a line drawn due west from Point Arguello, and no earlier than 0600 hours (6:00 a.m.) on July 31 in waters north of a line drawn due west from Point Arguello.

(2) In areas in which the season closure begins November 1, all traps must be removed from the water prior to November 1, weather and sea conditions permitting. In areas in which the season closure begins May 1, all traps must be removed from the water prior to May 1, weather and sea conditions permitting. In the event that a permittee is unable to comply with this subdivision, then that person must notify the nearest department office via telephone or FAX and certified mail not later than 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.) on November 1 or May 1, whichever is applicable, stating the reason for the delay and the anticipated date of trap removal. Notification does not relieve the permittee of responsibility for complying with this subdivision unless approved by the department.

(3) All spot prawns taken in any trap during the closed season shall be immediately returned to the water and no spot prawn may be possessed aboard, or landed from, any vessel operating under authority of a spot prawn trap permit in any area during the closed season in that area.

(b) All spot prawn traps shall be made of ~~plastic or wire~~ mesh with a minimum inside measurement of 7/8 inch by 7/8 inch, such that a 7/8 inch square peg passes through the mesh without stretching the mesh. (Note: Fathom Plus Traps may be used to take spot prawns.)

(c) Trap Limits.

(1) Tier 1 and Tier 3 trap limits. Not more than 500 traps may be used from any Tier 1 or Tier 3 vessel to take spot prawns except that not more than 300 traps may be used from any Tier 1 or Tier 3 vessel to take spot prawns within three miles of the mainland shore between a line drawn due west from Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County, and the California-Oregon boundary.

(2) Tier 2 trap limits. Not more than 150 traps may be used from any Tier 2 vessel.

(d) Each string of spot prawn traps shall be marked with a buoy bearing the commercial fishing license identification number issued to the owner or operator of the vessel.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections ~~710.7~~, 711 and 8591, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 710.7, 711, 8140, 8590, 8591, 8593, 8594, 8595, 8842, 9000, 9001, 9004-9008 and 9015, Fish and Game Code.